

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Diagnostic Technic.** By Prof. Dr. Julius Schwalbe. 851 pp. Illustrated. Leipzig: Verlag von George Thieme. 1923.

The general practitioner will welcome heartily the "Diagnostic Technic" of Schwalbe. This book, as well as his "Therapeutic Technic," was written for the special use of the general practitioner. Some of the foremost German scientists collaborated in outlining the modern diagnostic methods of all branches of medicine, and for this reason "Diagnostic Technic" represents a valuable contribution for the understanding of diagnostic possibilities to the general practitioner.

Modern methods of laboratory work are described in detail. Not only does the book treat the subject of secretion and excretion examinations, but also do the authors explain the finer function tests of the different organs (liver, spleen, kidneys, endocrine system, etc.) and methods of bacteriological and serological examinations.

The book contains many photographs and illustrations, valuable for the understanding of the various articles. Schwalbe's "Diagnostic Technic" is recommended to everyone who is desirous of obtaining the latest contribution to medical diagnosis, and especially for the doctor in the country who has to work without the help of a specialist.

A. S.

**Improved Methods in Hospital Management: A Treatise on the Introduction of Business Methods in the Management of Modern Hospitals.** By G. W. Curtis, Superintendent of Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, Santa Barbara, California. Hospital Service Exchange, Distributors, Santa Barbara, California, 1924. Published September, 1924, The Schauer Printing Studio, Inc., Santa Barbara.

Of the score or more books on hospital management, the attractive little volume of G. W. Curtis is the best. It is the only book that covers its subject fully in a simple straightforward manner, easily understood, and easily carried out.

No hospital worthy of the name can do less than what Curtis includes in his book, and to do more, except in vast complicated organizations, is a useless luxury.

The system so well outlined in this book is, and has been employed in California hospitals for a good many years. Many of them follow the practices laid down here almost exactly and scores of others at least base their work upon the principles contained in this book.

Every hospital and every person connected with hospital management will be able to meet his problems more intelligently and more economically by adopting Curtis' book as a text-book of procedure. In producing this book, Mr. Curtis has rendered a service to the cause of better hospitals and better medicine that ought to prove epochal in its influence.

In the mechanical work of producing the book the publishers are to be complimented.

**Modern Aspects of the Circulation in Health and Disease.** By Carl J. Wiggers. 2nd ed. 662 pp. Illustrated. Philadelphia and New York: Lea & Febiger. 1923. Price, \$7.50.

This book should be in the hands of every student of cardiology. It gives one an insight into the problems of physiology, pathology, and the dynamics of the cardiovascular system. The limited space makes it nearly impossible to give this book an adequate review.

The problems which are offered for study are intricate, but the author has not hesitated to oppose certain nearly orthodox principles by his own beliefs, these beliefs frequently backed by experimental evidence.

At present there is some expectancy among teachers and clinicians as to the value of sound recording and intensifying devices as a means of study of abnormal cardiac sounds. Wiggers almost anticipates the claims which are to be made in that field. He shows that their principal value will be in accurately fixing the time in the cardiac

cycle when these abnormal sounds occur, it being nearly impossible for the ear to time these sounds properly when the heart is rapid or irregular.

Wiggers goes into detail on the long-disputed question as to the value of judging the efficiency and power of the heart by the intensity of its sounds, first explaining the Lewis theory that high arterial pressure is not a cause of the accentuation of the second sound. Lewis based this on experimentation in which he increased arterial pressure by aortic compression. Wiggers disputes this and offers his own experiments as evidence that the vibration comprising both first and second sounds increased not only in amplitude, but in the number of vibration when the ventricles increased in vigor and the blood pressure was simultaneously raised. The author also made a searching investigation as to the significance of accentuated and enfeebled heart sounds by experimentally modifying conditions in the circulation: First, slowing the heart with consequent fall in both systolic and pulmonic pressure; result reduced intensity of both heart sounds; second, increasing the total resistance in the systemic circuit and thereby elevating arterial pressure; result accentuation of both sounds; third, increasing the systolic discharge and work of the ventricles; result increase of both heart sounds.

The results of the above experiments show that the relative intensity of the first sound may be used as a clinical index of the vigor with which the ventricle contraction is carried out.

The book is full of details of carefully performed experiments by a real scientist. The book should be studied; it does not miss it.

H. S.

**The Science and Art of Anesthesia.** By Colonel William Webster. 214 pp. Illustrated. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company. 1924. Price, \$4.75.

"The Science and Art of Anesthesia," the latest of the contributions to the literature of anesthesiology, presents an excellent shorter manual for the use of students and practitioners. Dr. Webster's activities in the fields of physiology, pharmacology, and pathology especially fit him for this work. It gives in its 206 pages a remarkably comprehensive summary of the scientific discoveries in anesthetics to date, and their practical application in surgery. In the pages devoted to what he terms the art of anesthesia, he condemns routine methods and emphasizes the necessity of considering the individual patient. There is much valuable advice in the chapters on pre- and post-operative treatment, effects of temperature and moisture on post-operative cases, etc.

The newer anesthetic agents, such as ethanesal and ethylene, are discussed briefly, and a conservative policy as to their adoption advocated.

In all respects it is a valuable handbook for those interested in anesthesiology.

M. E. B.

**Modern Urology.** In original contributions by American authors. Edited by Hugh Cabot. 2 vols. 2nd ed. Illustrated. Philadelphia and New York: Lea & Febiger. 1924. Price, \$18.

This is undoubtedly the best work published on urology in any language, and the thirty-eight monographs have been so correlated that it is not only a reference book for the specialist, but is an ideal text-book for students or the general practitioner.

In the five years that have elapsed since the first edition there have been many advances in the field of urology, and this necessitated a revision. Death has claimed two of the original contributors, Drs. Walter J. Dodd and Paul Pilcher. The chapter written by the former on "The Roentgenology of the Urinary Tract" has been revised by Dr. Preston M. Hickley, while Dr. Pilcher's section on "Prostatic Obstruction" is well handled by Dr. James A. Gardner. The seven-page article of Dr. Edwin Beer on "Tumors of the Testicle" has been replaced with a very complete twenty-nine page chapter by Dr. Frank Hinman. The delightful introductory historical sketch from the pen of Dr. Francis S. Watson has been omitted from this edition because of lack of space.

Most of the articles have been carefully revised and more complete bibliographies attached. However, the sections on anatomy and physiology have not been changed, and are not in keeping with the high standard of the work. Judging from the dearth of bibliography, many of